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June 5, 1954

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file in Guatemala

Dear Jack:

Your puzzlement over the Department's circular telegram 442 of May 29 as outlined in your letter of June 1 is readily understood. You should have received an individual message to clarify it, and I am only sorry that in the rush of things here (which, believe me, surpasses all understanding) we did not think to give this proper consideration.

The policy outlined has a very definite purpose. First, by asking for advance OAS concurrence on a specific resolution, it is hoped that we may be assured of the votes in advance of a meeting and limit the meeting to the merest formality of approval, thereby avoiding a long drawn out debate and resulting bitterness and disunity. Second, by limiting the resolution to one authorization, believed to be the minimum step in the present circumstances, and one on which general concurrence is most likely to be obtained, it is hoped that success will be certain. Third, since the resolution is so drawn as to permit examination of traffic in both directions, it will be possible to halt effectively the normal flow of commerce. Fourth, this halting or interruption will be as effective as the most specific economic sanctions, which if proposed on their own would fall into certain opposition. Thus, in total, it is expected that we will achieve the ends desired by an easier and quicker route.

The matter was given pretty thorough consideration at the highest levels here and the decision is pretty solid. Further, it is one which has so far been easily sold to our colleagues in Washington missions, and replies from the field are so far entirely encouraging.

There is one thing which I think you can be assured of and that is that we are on the road of settling this problem, either by the means now devised or by some other means should these not succeed. There is 100 percent determination here, from the top down, to get rid of this stinker and not to stop-

The Honorable
John E. Peurifoy,
American Ambassador,
Guatemala.

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until that is done. For this reason, our morale is rather high and I am sure the Embassy's will correspond as the methods utilized become more understandable.

With all our good wishes and regards,

Sincerely yours,

Raymond G. Leddy

ARA:MIA:RGL:LGC